

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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P R 310641Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0676

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSULATE ZAGREB

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 5002

STATE FOR CU/CP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJ: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS - ST. PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

REF: BUCHAREST 4969

1. ST. PAUL ORCHESTRA DEPARTED ROMANIA FOR YUGOSLAVIA
OCTOBER 29 FOLLOWING FOUR-HOUR DELAY CAUSED BY ALITALIA "MINI-
STRIKE".

2. OVER 1000 PERSONS PACKED INTO 800-SEAT BRASOV PHIL-
HARMONIC HALL ON OCTOBER 28 FOR PERFORMANCE TERMED BY ST. PAUL
DIRECTOR DAVIES "OUR BEST CONCERT OF THE TOUR". AFTER AFTERNOON
CALLS AT TWO BRASOV INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES, AMBASSADOR WAS HOST TO
SEVEN LOCAL OFFICIALS AND THEIR WIVES AT CONCERT. FOLLOWING
SEVERAL CURTAIN CALLS AND ENCORE THE GROUP WAS VISITED BACKSTAGE
BY SEVERAL BRASOV CRITICS AND MUSICIANS, ONE OF WHOM TERMED
THE PERFORMANCE "PERFECT POINT BY POINT, WITHOUT A FLAW".

3. THE BRASOV SUCCESS CAME ON THE HEELS OF A BUCHAREST
DISASTER OCTOBER 27. UNLIKE LOCAL SPONSORS IN PLOIESTI AND
BRASOV WHO PROMOTED THE CONCERTS EXTENSIVELY AND DEMONSTRATED
IMPRESSIVE HOSPITALITY, ARIA IN BUCHAREST DID NOT. AUDIENCE
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OF ONLY 200 PERSONS - INCLUDING A PARTY OF FORTY FROM THE

EMBASSY - LEFT 600 EMPTY SEATS IN THE BUCHAREST RADIO-TELEVISION HALL FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING PROGRAM OF MODERN AMERICAN MUSIC SELECTED BY ARIA. INSULTING TO ORCHESTRA AND DISTURBING TO DIRECTOR DAVIES WAS THE COMPLETE LACK OF PROGRAM NOTES AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPOSERS AND THE PIECES; MATERIAL PROVIDED ARIA WEEKS IN ADVANCE AND USED EFFECTIVELY IN PROVINCIAL CITIES. ARIA OFFENDED GUESTS AND AUDIENCE ALIKE BY PRINTED PROGRAMS CONSISTING OF SINGLE MIMEOGRAPHED SHEET LISTING NAME OF ORCHESTRA AND THE TITLES OF THE PIECES TO BE PERFORMED. ARIA OFFICIALS ATTENDING THE SUNDAY PROGRAM DISAPPEARED PRIOR TO THE END OF THE CONCERT AFTER RECEIVING STRONG COMPLAINTS REGARDING FAILURE TO PROMOTE CONCERT AND THEIR IMPLIED TREATMENT OF THE ORCHESTRA FROM SEVERAL OF THE BUCHAREST CRITICS AND MUSICIANS ATTENDING. ARIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR NEGREANU (WHO BLAMED ARIA DIRECTOR FLOREA FOR THE AFFAIR) WAS SENT TO THE BUS PRIOR TO THE GROUP'S DEPARTURE FOR BRASOV THE FOLLOWING MORNING TO EXPRESS "OUR SINCEREST APOLOGIES" FOR THE SUNDAY FIASCO, PROMISING THAT "HEADS WOULD ROLL".

4. ARIA'S FAILURE TO PROMOTE THE SUNDAY CONCERT AND TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PRINTED PROGRAMS FRUSTRATED OUR ATTEMPT TO SHOWCASE NEW AMERICAN MUSIC FOR A SOPHISTICATED BUCHAREST AUDIENCE. IN THE EMBASSY VIEW, IT HAS EXPOSED ARIA'S COMPLETE BANKRUPTCY AS A VIABLE COUNTERPART ORGANIZATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CP PROGRAM, A MATTER WE INTEND TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF HIGHER AUTHORITY AT THE COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION AS SOON AS AN APPOINTMENT CAN BE ARRANGED. WE WILL ADVISE ON THE RESULTS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCIL.

5. THE IMPACT OF THE ST. PAUL ORCHESTRA IN PLOIESTI AND BRASOV WAS, HOWEVER, UNDENIABLY STRONG. BOTH PHILHARMONICS INVITED DIRECTOR DAVIES TO RETURN TO CONDUCT THE LOCAL SYMPHONIES, INVITATIONS WHICH DAVIES SAYS HE WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER. THE GROUP'S PRESENCE IN THE TWO PROVINCIAL CITIES RESPONDED TO PAST REQUESTS FOR U.S. PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTATIONS FROM CULTURAL AUTHORITIES THERE AND PROVIDED THE AMBASSADOR AND THE EMBASSY WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTENDED DIALOGUE WITH POLITICAL AND CULTURAL OFFICIALS IN THE TWO CITIES. BUCHAREST PROBLEM, OUTLINED ABOVE, PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR DIRECT ACCESS TO

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CRITICS WHO HAVE REQUESTED PROGRAM INFORMATION BE PROVIDED BY EMBASSY.

6. FINALLY, IN WORDS OF ONE PLOIESTI OFFICIAL, "THE EMBASSY IS TO BE CONGRATULATED IN SENDING US SUCH A GROUP OF EXCELLENT YOUNG AMERICANS...WHAT MARVELOUS REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR COUNTRY" ALL OF US HERE, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAD THE PLEASURE OF THEIR COMPANY UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES SOMETIMES

FRUSTRATING AND MORE OFTEN HAPPY, READILY CONCUR.
BARNES

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